fence, Ministry of Finance, etc. and resources being made available to this Ministry.

(c) The 9th Plan is yet to be finalised. It may be stated that funds, for the current year, for the North-Eastern States alongwith other States, will be decided after Demands for Grants are passed by the Parliament.

Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee

716. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rakesh Mohan Committee has submitted its report to his Ministry;

(b) what are salient features of the report; and

(c) what strategy/scheme has been chalked out to mobilise private funds from domestic as well as international market for national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the recom mendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee Report are as under:—

(i) Master Plan for Highway Development.
(ii) Highway Policy.
(iii) Strategy for Highway Development.
(iv) Maintenance and Management of Highway.
(v) Assessment of Funds.
(vi) Private Sector Involvement.
(vii) Highway Improvements on User Pays basis.
(viii) New Sources of Funds.
(ix) Institutional needs.
(x) Need for Comprehensive Guidelines.

(c) Following are the major steps taken to mobilise private funds:—

(i) Road sector has been declared as an Industry.

(ii) Procedure for land acquisition/environmental clearances has been simplified, (iii) Detailed guidelines for BOT projects issued, (iv)' National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), an autonomous body, operationalised and authorised to take up BOT projects. NHAI can participate in such projects by contributing upto 30% of equity, (v) Capital subsidy by Government/ NHAI upto 40% of the project can be provided for improving financial viability of the project, on case to case basis, (vi) Treating highway and housing and other development activities forming integral part of highway project as a part of road infrastructure, (vii) Duty free import of sophisticated equipment for highway projects, (viii) Corporate tax exemption of 100% in the first five year and 30% concession in the next 5 years, to be availed of in 20 years. (ix) Automatic approval for foreign upto 74% and upto 100% on case to case basis allowed.

Development of Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Cochin Port

717. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Port Trust made any proposal for the development of Vallarpadam Container Terminal for the mothership to come to Cochin;

(b) if so, steps taken so far; and

(c) whether any attempt made to attract foreign collaboration for this new port development project?

THE MINISTER OF ^TATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Cochin Port Trust has invited Expressions of Interest from domestic and foreign Port Developers/Operators

for establishment of the termfnal on Build, Operate and Transfer basis.

Allotting a berth for unloading cement at Cochin Port Trust

718. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Port Trust accepted the bid to allot a berth for unloading the cement and recommended to Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government rejected the recommendations of the Cochin Port Trust; and

(d) if so, the reasons for rejecting the proposal after it was approved by the Ministry earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cochin Port Trust have forwarded two proposals for setting up of Cement Unloading and Packaging Terminals on the basis of offers received in response to Press Advertisement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Project has been turned down in view of the environmental consideration and objections from the State Government.

Extension of National Highway No. 8A

719. SHRI ANANTRAY DE VSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for the extension of National Highway No. 8A from Gandhidham to Jakha'u via Mundra and Mandvi port in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a demand from Hon'ble Member of Parliament for extending NH No. 8-A from Gandhidham onwards to Jakhau via Mundra and Mandvi Port. However, no such proposal has come from the State Government.

(c) and (d) As and when such proposal is received from the State Government, the same would be considered alongwith the proposals of other States subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

Allocation of Funds to Maharashtra From CRF

720. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the accruals of Central Road Fund (CRF) on the basis of consumption of petrol for the last three years for Maharashtra and actual allocations made to the state from CRF during the said period, year-wise;

(b) the present balance share of the State in that regard; and

(c) by when the entire share of CRF of Maharashtra is to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The share/allocation of funds during the last three years of Maharashtra is as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs) Tentative Accruals	Allocation
1995-96	270.34	172.00
1996-97	270.34	62.00
1997-98	270.34	63.00

(b) Rs. 1293.63 lakhs.